Upgradation of telephone exchange in Tehri and Uttarkashi

†1249. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target was laid down to open nine new Telephone Exchanges and upgradation of three exchanges and linking of 16 telephone exchanges with Microwave system and 8 telephone exchanges with satellite telephone in border District of Tehri and Uttarkashi during the year 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the actual position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The works mentioned were planned during 1998-99 but their execution was subject to availability of equipment and feasibility of the schemes. The actual position of the works is as follows:

(i) Out of 9 new telephone exchanges originally planned, four were commissioned in 1998-99 and two in 1999-2000. The remaining {Jfrf^. exchanges were not found necessary as telephone connections have been provided, in these places from nearest exchanges.

(ii) The three exchanges planned to be upgraded from MILT to C-DoT type have been upgraded. One was upgraded during 1998-99 and the remaining two in 1999-2000.

(iii) Out of sixteen exchanges planned to be connected by UHF or other reliable media, four were connected by UHF during 1998-99 and four during 1999-2000. The remaining eight are proposed during 2000-2001.

(iv) Out of eight exchanges proposed to be connected through Satellite system or other reliable media, one was connected with MCPC VSAT during 1998-99 and five during 1999-2000. The remaining two are proposed during 2000-2001.

Status of optical fibre system at Tehri-Uttarkashi

†1250. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes taken up for laying optical fibre in view of providing better

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.